



Children's Safety Network

National Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center

Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in Virginia

Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in Virginia (Year 2006 Incidence, Year 2007 Costs)						
Abuse Type	Future Earnings	Medical Care	Mental Health	Property Damage	Public Programs	Quality of Life
Sexual Abuse	\$6,303,700	\$1,692,100	\$19,717,800	\$0	\$2,773,800	\$277,078,700
Physical Abuse	\$19,672,900	\$5,097,800	\$17,407,200	\$116,100	\$9,311,800	\$335,148,600
Mental Abuse	\$465,700	\$0	\$1,535,900	\$0	\$820,000	\$10,860,500
Serious Neglect	\$469,000	\$65,000	\$19,679,000	\$0	\$12,527,600	\$154,589,300
Fatal	\$80,820,700	\$1,425,500	\$409,700	\$64,900	\$79,200	\$204,740,300
Total	\$107,732,000	\$8,280,400	\$58,749,600	\$181,000	\$25,512,400	\$982,417,400
Total	\$1,182,872,800					

Definitions:

Medical Care includes payments for hospital and physician care, as well as emergency medical transport, rehabilitation, prescriptions, allied health services, medical devices, and insurance claims processing. For fatalities, also include coroner and premature burial costs.

Mental Health Care includes payments for services by psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and pastoral counselors. Also includes insurance claims processing.

Future Earnings includes wages, fringe benefits, schoolwork, and housework lost by the injured. This estimate excludes earnings lost by family and friends caring for the injured.

Public Programs include police, fire, paramedic, ambulance, and helicopter transport costs. Social services and victim assistance costs are also included in this category. It excludes mental health services costs.

Property Damage and Loss is the value of property damage and of property taken and not recovered.

Quality of Life places a dollar value on pain, suffering and lost quality of life to the victim and their family. The value is computed from jury awards for pain, suffering, and lost quality of life due to physical injuries and fear. For murders, this value is computed from the amount people routinely spend (in dollars or time) to reduce their risk of death.

Source:

Children's Safety Network-Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center, at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Calverton, MD, 2009. The costs were adapted to Virginia using a state-specific price adjusters. All costs were calculated using incidents reported in the Child Maltreatment 2006, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect Data Set. For more information contact Monique Sheppard at mssheppard@pire.org.

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THE COST of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States

The total lifetime estimated financial costs associated with just one year of confirmed cases of child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and neglect) is approximately \$124 billion, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDCP study reviewed 1,740 fatal and 579,000 non-fatal child maltreatment cases for a 12-month period.

The estimated average lifetime cost per death is about \$1.3 million – almost all of this being the same amount of money the child would have earned over a lifetime if she or he had lived:

- \$14,100 in medical costs
- \$1,258,800 in productivity losses

The estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is \$210,012, including:

- \$32,648 in childhood health care costs
- \$10,530 in adult medical costs
- \$144,360 in productivity losses
- \$7,728 in child welfare costs
- \$6,747 in criminal justice costs
- \$7,999 in special education costs

Costs associated with every victim of child maltreatment who lives is comparable to other costly health conditions, such as stroke, which has a lifetime cost per person estimated at \$159,846, or type 2 diabetes, which has estimated costs of \$181,000 to \$253,000.

Child maltreatment can also be linked to many emotional, behavioral, and physical health problems, including aggression, conduct disorder, delinquency, antisocial behavior, substance abuse, intimate partner violence, teenage pregnancy, anxiety, depression, and suicide.

A promising array of prevention and response programs have great potential to reduce child maltreatment. Given the substantial economic burden of child maltreatment, the benefits of prevention will likely outweigh the costs for effective programs.

The information in this flyer was adapted from a report produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and published in Child Abuse and Neglect, The International Journal. To view this report, visit www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/EconomicCost.html